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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /184 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1305

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4948

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ, CU
SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN UNGA: CUBAN PERM REP'S SPEECH

REF: USUN 4852

1. IN UNGA PLENARY NOV. 20, CUBAN PERM REP ALARCON DEVOTED MOST OF HIS HOUR-LONG SPEECH TO PUERTO RICO. HE DETAILED WHAT HE TERMED UN'S STEADILY DEEPENING INVOLVEMENT IN PUERTO RICAN ISSUE OVER LAST DECADE, HAILED COMMITTEE OF 24'S AUGUST 1973 RES ON PUERTO RICO AND READ TEXT OF RES ON PUERTO RICO ADOPTED BY ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. HE AGAIN ATTACKED PROPOSED SUPERPORT PROJECT AS EXAMPLE OF "YANKEE COLONIALISM" AND CLAIMED US ATTEMPTING TO ISOLATE PUERTO RICO FROM THIRD WORLD TRENDS BY BUILDING "WALL OF SILENCE" AROUND IT. ONLY NEW IDEAS IN ALARCON'S SPEECH WERE: A) CALL FOR UN VISITING MISSION TO ASCERTAIN DIRECTLY POLITICAL DESIRES OF PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE; AND B) REQUEST THAT "INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY REFRAIN FROM RECOGNIZING YANKEE CONTROL AND EXTEND FULL SUPPORT TO PUERTO RICO LIBERATION MOVEMENT."

2. US (AMB. SCHAUFELE) IN EXERCISING BRIEF RIGHT OF REPLY, EMPHASIZED THAT PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE NOT SURROUNDED BY "WALL OF SILENCE" BUT INSTEAD CONTROL THEIR OWN POLITICAL DESTINY THROUGH TRULY FREE ELECTIONS IN CONTRAST WITH LACK OF ELECTIONS IN CUBA. SCHAUFELE ALSO REGRETTED THAT COMMITTEE
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OF 24 HAD "UNNECESSARILY AND IMPROPERLY" INVOLVED ITSELF IN

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AFFAIRS OF PUERTO RICO." (FULL TEXT BEING POUCHED DEPT.)

3. ALARCON THEN EXERCISED HIS RIGHT OF REPLY WITH QUOTE FROM "BURY MY HEART AT WOUNDED KNEE", WHICH SUPPOSEDLY PROVES THAT USG ALWAYS BREAKS ITS PROMISES.

4. PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE LEADERS BERRIOS AND MARI BRAS SEATED IN ASSEMBLY HALL DURING SPEECH.

5. COMMENT: WITH EXCEPTION OF OCCASIONAL STANDARD REFERENCE TO "YANKEE IMPERIALISM", ALARCON'S SPEECH SURPRISINGLY FREE OF USUAL VITRIOLIC RHETORIC AND SHARPLY CONTRASTS WITH TIRADE HE DELIVERED UNDER SAME ITEM DURING LAST UNGA SESSION. EVER SINCE FONMIN ROA'S WELL PUBLICIZED OUTBURST IN UNGA PLENARY OCT. 10, CUBAN DELEGATES IN VIRTUALLY ALL UNGA COMMITTEES AS WELL AS IN PLENARY HAVE SHOWN REMARKABLE (FOR THEM) RESTRAINT AND GENERAL TENOR OF THEIR SPEECHES CAN ALMOST BE DESCRIBED AS LOW KEY.
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